



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity

SOUTH DAKOTA

www.usda.gov/strikeforce

South Dakota Fast Facts - 2014

State's Child Poverty Rate:	18.1%
State's Overall Poverty Rate:	12.8%
StrikeForce State Since:	2013
Number of StrikeForce Counties:	13
Total Outreach Events:	81
Number of Community Partners:	11
Total USDA Projects:	1,007
Total USDA Investments:	\$77.6 million

Contacts

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Some of Our StrikeForce Community Partners

Department of Housing and Urban
Development

Enterprise Communities

Great Plains Native Asset Building
Coalition

GROW South Dakota

Oglala Lakota College

Sinte Gleska University

South Dakota Governor's Office of
Economic Development

South Dakota Indian Business Alliance

South Dakota Office of Tribal Relations

South Dakota Native Homeownership
Coalition

Currently, 85 percent of our country's persistent poverty counties are in rural America. More than one third of rural Americans, and one in four rural children live in poverty. Kids growing up in families earning twice the poverty threshold are nearly three times as likely as other children to have poor health, are more likely to finish two fewer years of school, and are more likely to earn half as much money in their adult lives.

Growing the economy by investing in rural communities and increasing opportunities for families is key to our Nation's future. In 2010, Secretary Vilsack established USDA's StrikeForce Initiative for Rural Growth and Opportunity to address the specific challenges associated with rural poverty. Since then, StrikeForce teams have collaborated with more than 500 community partners and public entities to bring targeted assistance to rural areas experiencing chronic poverty.

These efforts have invested more than \$16.5 billion to create jobs, build homes, feed kids, assist farmers and conserve natural resources across twenty states. In 2015, StrikeForce expanded to include Oklahoma and Puerto Rico. Now, USDA StrikeForce teams will operate in 880 counties in 21 states and Puerto Rico. Each StrikeForce project is a commitment to America's economic future.

StrikeForce At Work

In rural South Dakota, tribal members often lack access to higher education courses and facilities. For instance, students living on the 1,900-square-mile Rosebud Indian Reservation and the 11,000-square-mile Oglala Lakota Sioux Indian Reservation, must travel long distances to attend local tribal colleges.

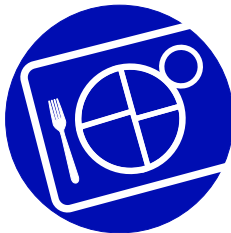
USDA participated in a 2014 Grant Writing Workshop to help communities improve education, training and resources for these and other rural residents. More than 80 participants from 21 communities participated. Topics included grant writing, finding grant writing assistance, and identifying funding sources. In addition, participants had the opportunity to connect with resource providers, including USDA, other agencies, nonprofits and community foundations.

Following the workshop, two tribal colleges completed successful applications with USDA Rural Development. Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Indian Reservation received a grant to purchase four 15-passenger vans to transport students to and from classes. The students, who otherwise may not be able to attend, will travel more than 250,000 miles per year getting to class. In addition, Oglala Lakota College of Kyle, South Dakota, will receive funds to purchase equipment and remodel nine remote instructional centers that will connect tribal members from across the vast reservation to classes. Both colleges have strong agriculture programs, and students learning about farming and ranching practices are also connected to Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency programs through this partnership.



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Jobs Created
or Saved

Summer Meals for Kids

Farmers
Assisted

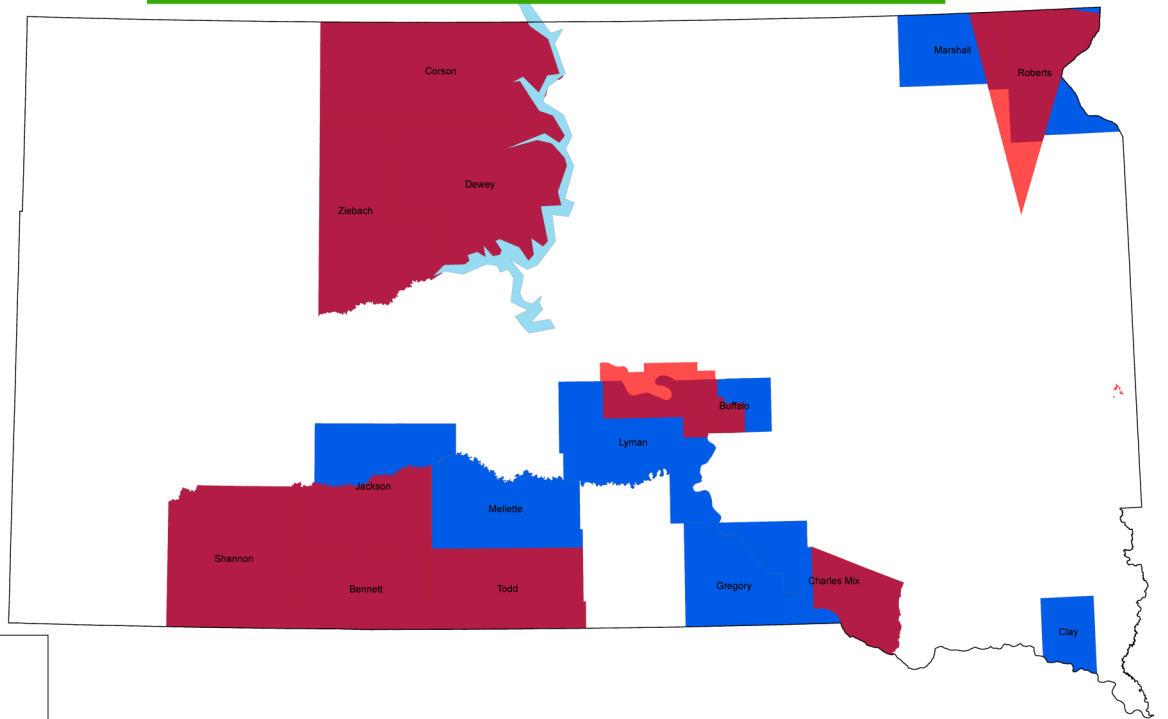
Home
Investments



Conservation Efforts



STRIKEFORCE MAP SERIES FINAL: South Dakota Persistent Poverty StrikeForce Counties with overlay of Native American Reservations



State
 Lakes
 Tribal Reservations and Pueblos
 Counties

Data Sources May Contain Data From The Following Sources:
 ESRI World Physical Map Base Data Layers
 2000 CENSUS TIGER DATA - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
 2010 CENSUS TIGER DATA - CENSUS_Tiger.gdb
 USGS National State Boundaries Data set
 NCES - RFS FY2010 School Lunch Participation CORE Data
 From U.S. Department of Education National Center For Education
 Statistics: nces.ed.gov/survey/data/index.asp
 USDA/RS/RD Data Data Reflecting RD Program Specific Data
 USDA/RS/RD, RBS, RHS, O&M/CIO Data Sources
 USDO/OCIO/EGMO Departmental Data Resources
 Housing and Urban Development Data
 Environmental Protection Agency Data

This map includes Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas as delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Although these areas are associated with particular tribes and tribes have certain jurisdictional authorities and treaty rights in these areas, many Rural Development investments in these areas only in part benefit American Indians, or in fact may not benefit any American Indians or Tribes. Please contact Rural Development's Native American Coordinator or Rural Development Staff in Oklahoma to verify whether or not particular investments within Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas are indeed investments benefiting American Indians.

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